

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve
aSB295
.C35W36
1987

WANTED

YOUR HELP IN LOCATING MARIJUANA GROWN ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS

U.S.D.A., NAL

AUG - 5 1998

Received

United States
Department
of Agriculture
Forest Service

Southern Region



National Forest land is becoming increasingly popular for the growing and harvesting of marijuana.

With high-grade Sinsemilla marijuana selling for as much as \$2,000 per pound, the profits from this illegal activity can range into the millions of dollars and have a severe impact on the economy of our country.

These illicit growing operations are occurring throughout the country.

Authorities have been working to decrease this unlawful farming. (In some states, the problem is nearly out of control.)

Your assistance is needed to help stop marijuana in our National Forests.

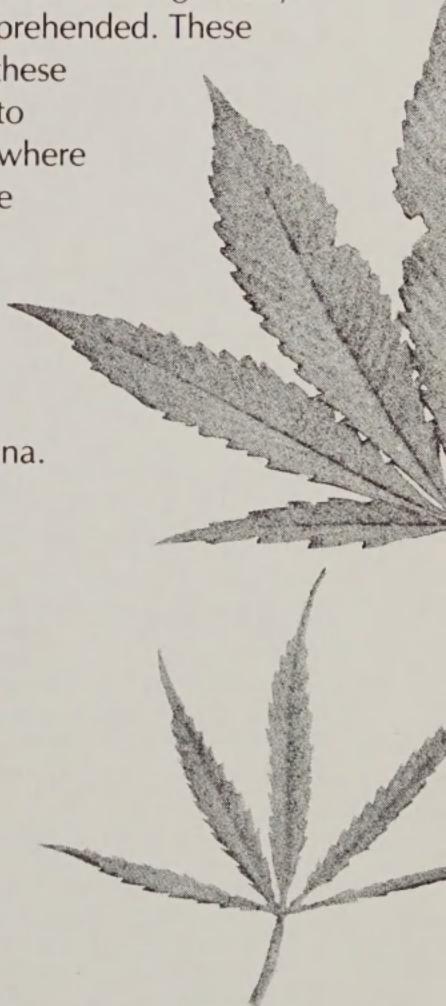


Why has National Forest land become more attractive for this illegal activity?



Some states have identified the problem and are putting pressure on the persons involved by locating areas used for marijuana growing, and by making arrests and vigorously prosecuting those who have been apprehended. These measures have encouraged many of these individuals to move their operations to remote areas of National Forest land where they believe the risk of detection to be lower.

National Forest lands are vast and uninhabited with many areas of rich, fertile soil and a climate that provides the necessary weather conditions for the growing of marijuana.

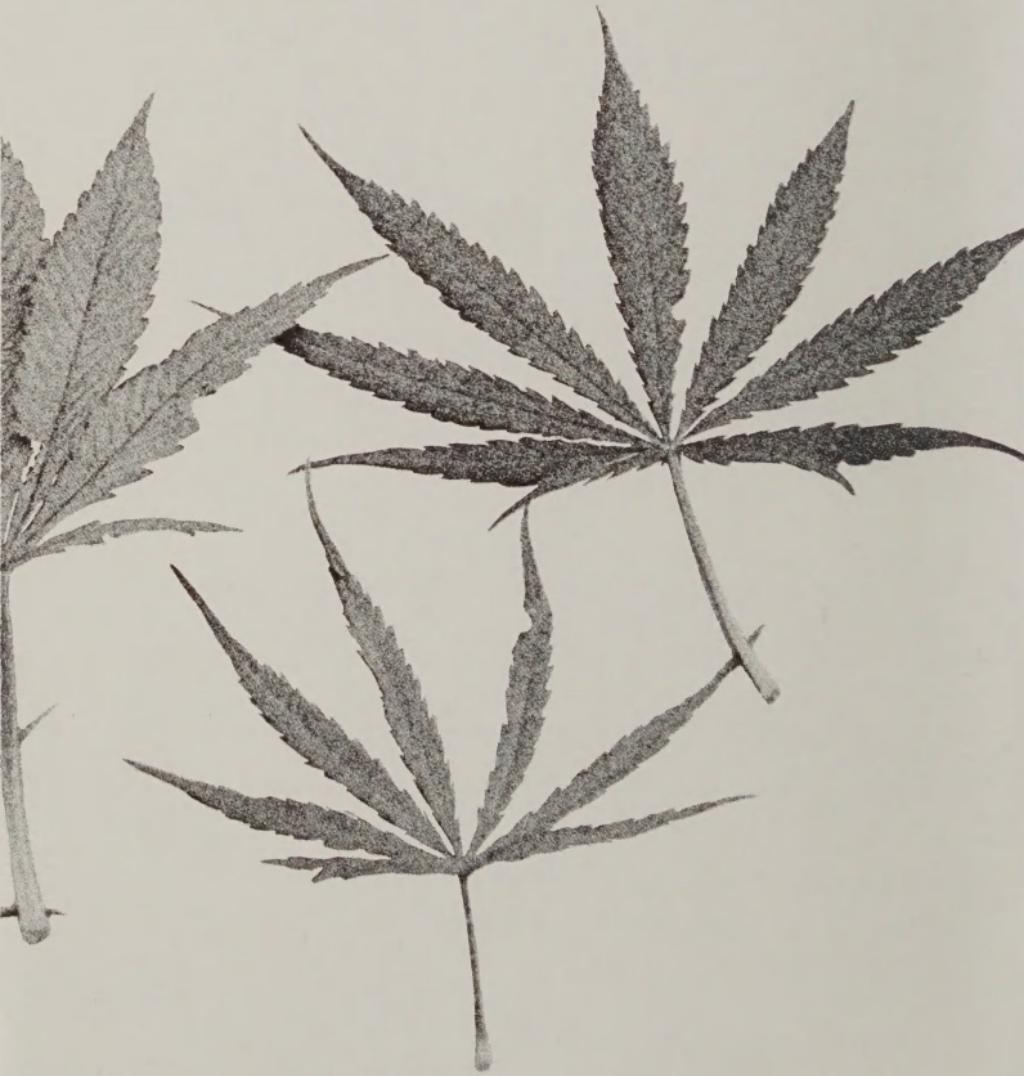


How do these illegal operations work?

Seasonal marijuana growing operations have been conducted on lands of all ownership. In addition, some individuals and/or groups prefer to grow marijuana in a green house or hot house where year-round harvests are possible.

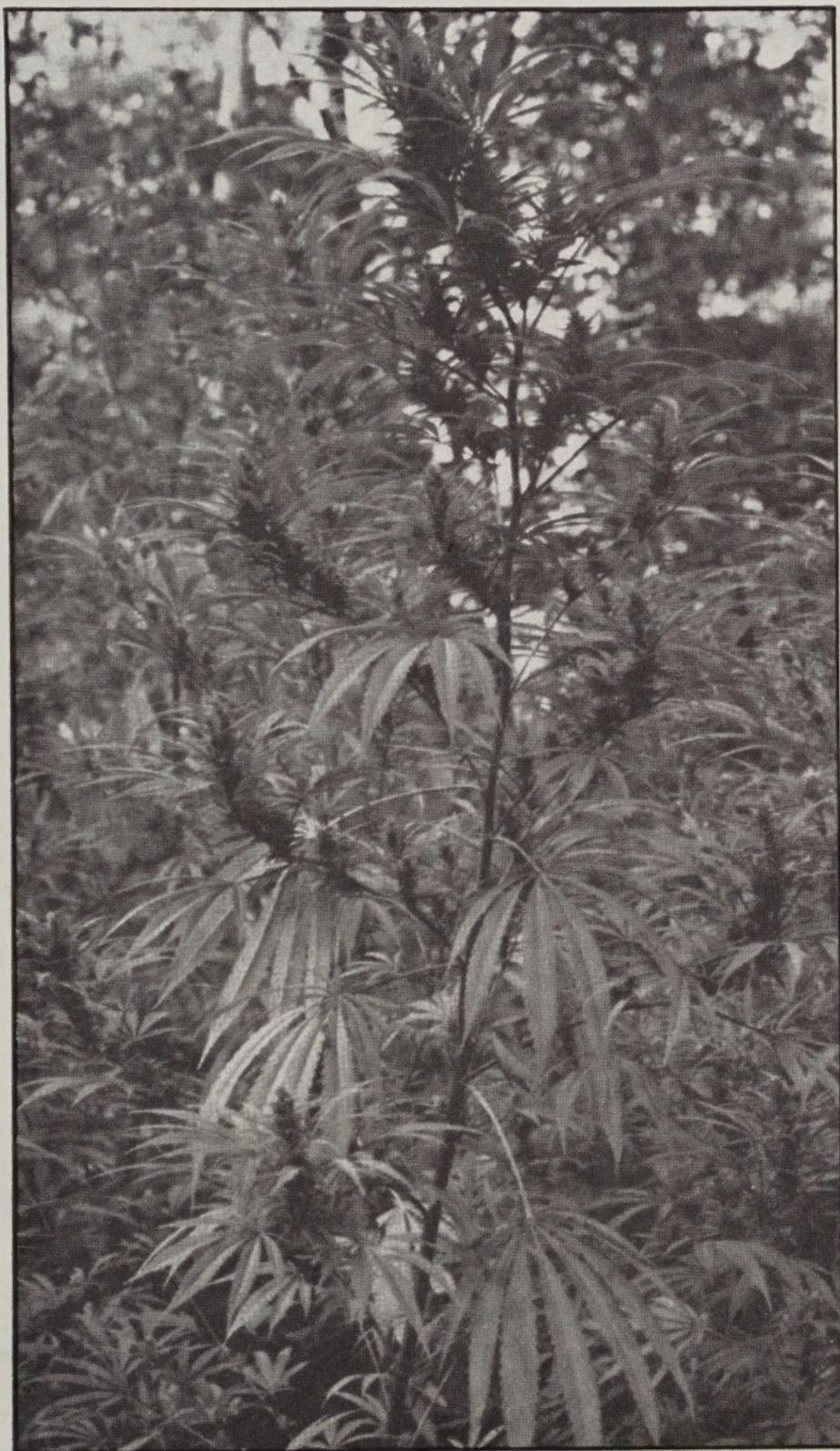
However, due to increased law enforcement efforts, many individuals have elected to grow their illegal crops on National Forests or other publicly owned lands where isolation and limited public access lessen the likelihood of accidental detection.

The U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with other federal, state and local enforcement agencies, is concerned with the illegal cultivation of marijuana. Information from all law enforcement officials will be shared in a continuous effort to identify individuals, organizations and co-ops which are engaged in the illegal growing of marijuana. Your law enforcement community wants to eliminate the growing of this illegal crop, but we need your help.

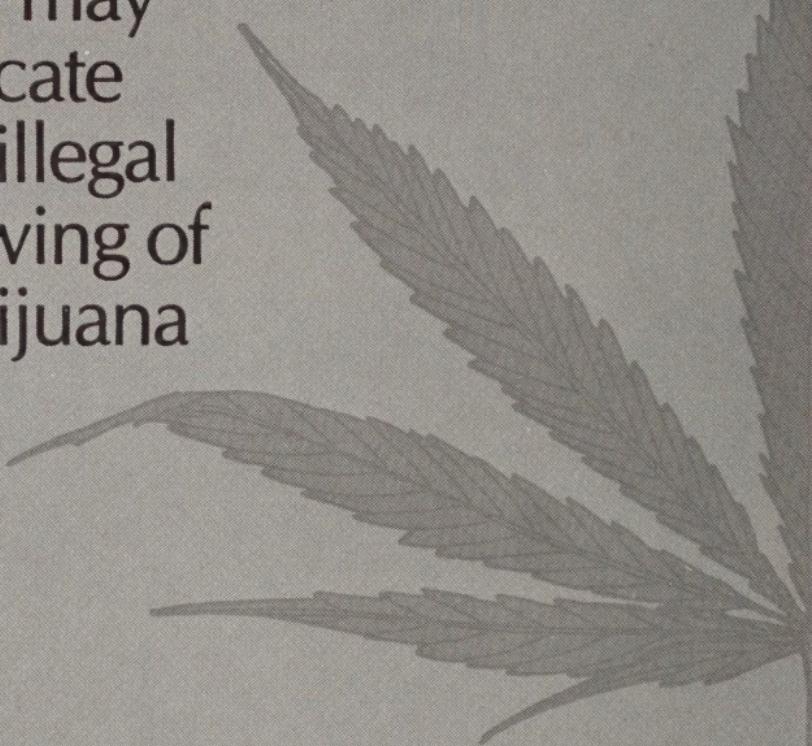


What can the citizen do to help?

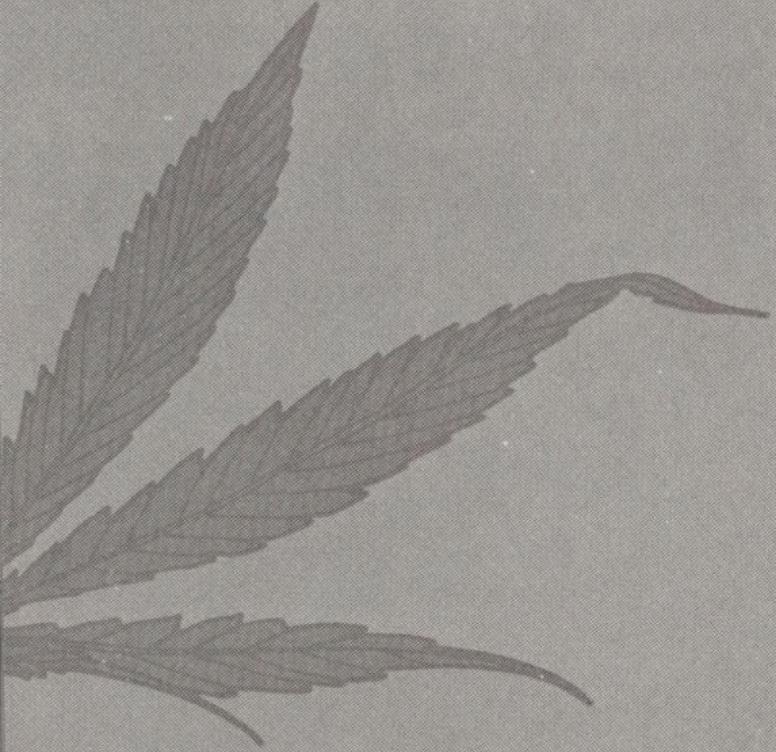
There are many things you can watch for which may indicate that marijuana is being grown in your area. If you notice any of the listed items on the following page, call your local law enforcement authorities immediately.



Look for these signs... they may indicate the illegal growing of marijuana



- 1. The erection of tents** or the utilization of camper trailers or other recreational vehicles on wooded property with no evidence of recreational activities.
- 2. A pattern of vehicular traffic** or a particular vehicle seen in the same isolated area on a regular basis.
- 3. Unusual amount of vehicular traffic** (especially at night) carrying unknown individuals in and out of an area.
- 4. House in the country** where men are constantly going in and out and women or children are never seen.
- 5. The building of a large green house** or tin barn on property where these structures would not normally be utilized. (Example: On very heavily wooded land where there are no animals to feed.)
- 6. Large purchases by individuals** of fertilizer, garden hoses, plastic PVC pipe, chicken wire, long 2 x 2 lumber, different sized pots (utilized for different stages of growing plants), machetes, camouflage netting, camouflage clothing, varied sizes of step ladders (up to 18 to 20 feet) usually



painted with green and brown paint, green plastic garden tie material, cans of green spray paint, large trash bags, lanterns, portable heaters (such as large kerosene heaters), extension cords, heat lamps and fans.

7. Individuals purchasing wooded lands and displaying a lot of POSTED and KEEP OUT signs (high fences, heavy chains and locks on gates).

8. The use of guard dogs and alarm systems on property in the country — especially in certain areas of the property. (Example: Dogs and/or alarm around tin barn or building in an isolated area of the property.)

9. Unusual structures located in remote forested areas, with buckets, garden tools, fertilizer bags, etc.

10. Signs of cultivation /soil disturbance in unlikely areas.

You are the best judge of what may be unusual or suspicious about property that is possibly being utilized for growing marijuana.



1022386224

MARIJUANA CAN BE DANGEROUS!

*Leave Investigations to Law Enforcement
Officers*

DOs and DON'Ts

The following are recommended dos and don'ts which apply upon discovery of a marijuana garden:

DO your best to know your exact location by use of existing landmarks. This will be helpful when relating the location of the garden to law enforcement authorities.

DO make note of any vehicles or persons in or around the area.

DO exit the area on the same route you entered.

DO notify law enforcement authorities immediately.

DO keep this information to yourself after notifying the proper authority.

DO HELP US.

DON'T enter a garden area, or go any closer than is necessary to identify the plant(s) as being marijuana.

DON'T look around the areas for additional plants or garden sites.

DON'T take a sample plant or segment of a plant with you.

DON'T leave any unnecessary sign of your presence in the area.

DON'T return to the area unless accompanied by law enforcement authorities.

Contact your nearest federal, state, or local law enforcement agency:
